

**Minutes of the American Bamboo Society
Board of Directors Meeting
17 and 18 October 2024**

The Meeting was called to order by President Luc Boeraeve on 17 Oct 2024 at 0915h at the Moonrise Hotel, St. Louis, MO

Directors and Officers Present:

Luc Boeraeve	President, International Director
Ian Connor	Vice President, PNWC Director (via Zoom)
David King	Secretary, At-Large #4 Director
Carole Meckes	Co-Treasurer
Judge Edwards	LGCC Director
Dan Fox	MSC Director
Lawton Rogers	SEC Director
James Clever	At-Large #1 Director
Mark Sanders	At-Large #3 Director (via Zoom)

Directors Absent:

Shanti Pierce	FCC Director
Landy Banks	SCC Director
Harry Simmons	TBSC Director
Bill Hollenback	Co-Treasurer, At-Large #2 Director
Autumn Ramsay	At-Large #5 Director

Others Present:

Nancy Oberschmidt	Guest (Ned Jaquith Foundation)
Daphne Lewis	SEC

Quorum: A quorum (>7) of ABS Directors was determined to be present, including Zoom attendance. Count = 8.

Approval of the 2023 Board meeting minutes: Unanimously approved.

Agenda: One addition: Magazine purchase online, ISSUU.com website (under “New Business”).

Consent Agenda: The following items were included in the Consent Agenda: Species/Source List Report; Bambooweb.info Report. These are **attached to these minutes**. The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously on a **motion** by King, second by Edwards. Chapter and International Reports (information only, as available) are **attached**.

President's Comments: (Luc Boeraeve) – **full report attached**.

Treasurer's Report: (Carole Meckes) -

The YTD income/expense report through 1 October 2024 and the proposed budget for 2025 were presented. YTD Income \$27,063.19; Expenses \$23,156.11.

Cash balances in checking and PayPal total \$20,181.84. With \$101,374.00 in the Charles Schwab brokerage account, less liabilities of \$1890.00, makes the ABS net worth \$119,665.84.

\$5000 for grants had been allocated for 2024 and forwarded to the Ned Jaquith Foundation.

The annual audit of ABS accounts by the Secretary was accomplished by comparing recent bank and brokerage statements to the amounts in the Treasurer's reports. No discrepancies were found.

The final 2025 budget and discussion appear under New Business below, following the internal funding requests. A **motion** (King, second by Boeraeve) to approve the Treasurer's Report **carried** unanimously.

Management of Funds in Brokerage Account: (David King) The invested funds are divided among 1 government money market fund and 4 exchange-traded funds. YTD, the brokerage income is \$2854.75. King rebalances the investments from time to time to maintain diversification and a moderate risk allocation. Volunteers to help manage the account would be welcome.

Membership Report – (Carole Meckes):

There are currently **398** voting ABS members, and Carole presented the breakdown among chapters. Thus the quorum for the Annual General Meeting will be **40** or more ABS members. Discussion of how to ensure ABS Life Members are still alive resulted in consensus that periodic email contact should be attempted, with a response considered a “sign of life”.

Secretary’s Report (David King)

A summary of Board actions (via Zoom meetings) since the last Annual Meeting is **attached**.

At-Large #2 Director for 2024-2027 term: Election results to be announced at the upcoming Annual General Membership Meeting.

Currently Recognized US Chapters (8 total):

Qualifying for a Director – FCC, LGCC, MSC, PNWC, SCC, SEC, TBSC

Not Qualifying for a Director (based on membership count) – HC

Chapter Dissolved in 2019: NEC

Chapter Dissolved in 2022: NCC

Directors Selected by their Chapters for 2024-2027 term:

LGCC: Judge Edwards re-elected.

PNWC: PNWC Board to meet in Dec 2024, incumbent Ian Connor is Acting Director in meantime.

TBSC: To be decided at a Chapter meeting after the ABS conference.

Ned Jaquith Foundation (NJF) Grants: (Nancy Oberschmidt) Grant application deadline was 1 October and 8 grants have been awarded for 2025, totaling \$26,790. The Ned Jaquith Foundation reviews and approves grant applications received on behalf of the ABS. Donations are solicited, as always.

Arts & Crafts Report: (Shanti Pierce) [No report]

NEW BUSINESS —

Annual Review of Electoral Number (David King): The number of primary ABS members which a chapter must have to be represented by an ABS Director is currently 20. Twenty ABS members are needed to form a chapter. Chapters which are not large enough to have their own Director are represented by the five At-Large members or may share a Director with one or more other Chapters.

A **motion** (King, second: Edwards) to keep the electoral number at 20, **carried**.

ABS 2025 Annual Meeting Update: ABS Meeting Planning Committee

Location: Greenville, SC. Has a major airport, short distances to bamboo groves.

Dates: Late October 2025, likely 30.Oct – 2.Nov.

Host: ABS, assisted by members of the Southeast Chapter.

Meeting hotel: Embassy Suites is first choice.

Program: Thursday: Board meeting. Friday: Clemson experimental grove, speakers. Saturday: Robert Sutton’s Henon grove, Bamboo Bill; structure building (?design competition); native bamboos in the grove. Sunday: optional tours. Details on bamboo.org as they are developed.

Estimated cost of meeting = \$18,000. James Clever will email the cost breakdown to the Board, with approval deferred until the later 2025 budget discussion.

James offered, and Ian accepted, the primary role in directing the annual meeting planning team in the future.

ABS 2026 Annual Meeting: ABS Meeting Planning Committee

Various options discussed including Texas, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

Advertising:

Chair position vacant; Carole Meckes maintains an advertiser spreadsheet.

Judge Edwards volunteered to assume the advertising duties with assistance from James Clever (former Chair) and Carole.

Website: *Carole Meckes*

FAQ page – needs more than the single question on the page that is there now. Judge urged the whole Board to contribute questions and answers. David noted that there are unpublished pages from the oldest ABS website which might be helpful, and several online bamboo nurseries have FAQ pages which we could ask to adapt for ABS use.

WBO Website Integration: *Luc Boeraeve*

The new WBO website has a page dedicated to the ABS as a sponsor. ABS promotion could be included there, and a video would have considerable impact. Luc will ask Shanti Pierce if she would put a video together since she has experience.

Bamboos Native to the US: *Luc Boeraeve*

Luc stated the ABS should make ABS members aware of the native bamboos to the US, for example through presentations at meeting. Contacts with others who might be helpful to these efforts should be established. James and Daphne suggested contacting meeting speakers who spoke about native bamboos and ask about their contacts.

Florida Bamboo Growers Association: *Luc Boeraeve*

It is not clear where this bamboo farmers' organization stands with respect to numbers of plantings and number of farms. ABS should cooperate with them with information exchange.

BAMBOO Magazine: *Carole Meckes, Mark Sanders*

At Mark's suggestion, the Board considered using the ISSUU.com site to convert ABS publication PDFs to a flipbook format for the website. The cost is approximately \$250/year. There is a limited free version available as well. A motion by Judge Edwards to approve this amount was proposed, then amended by King to try the free version first as a trial. The amended motion was seconded by Judge and received unanimous Board support.

Publications Chair Retirement: *David King for Michael Bartholomew*

Michael Bartholomew has been managing ABS publications for many years and is considering winding down his involvement. In addition, he stores many back issues of newsletters, magazines, journals and source species lists at his residence and asks for guidelines as to their disposition.

The Board expressed a need for a timeframe as well as a count (number of boxes) of what is stored, and discussed keeping 6 complete sets and recycling the rest. Michael has invited anyone to pick up, in person, as many copies of publications as desired in the meantime.

Michael strongly suggests consolidating publication, printing and mailing functions in one local area to avoid shipping delays.

The question of whether the annual honorarium will continue for a new publications chair was deferred.

ABS Internal Funding Requests: (For final figures, see line entries in **attached** budget.)

Web/Internet: no new requests.

BAMBOO Magazine – no significant change.

Species Source List – funds carried over.

Arts and Crafts: no new requests.

APPROVAL of the 2025 ABS BUDGET (*All Directors and Officers*): After a motion (King, second: Boeraeve) and extensive discussion, the 2025 budget was **approved** unanimously.

Announcement of International Events: *Luc Boeraeve*

Luc notes that there are more and more bamboo events being scheduled around the world.

2025 - WBC 13: The presumptive location of the next World Bamboo Congress is in Brazil. Discussions are in the early phase, but the dates possibly will be in Brazilian late winter or spring (August or September 2025).

2025 - A Bamboo Expo in the US is in the works for autumn 2025, likely in Florida. Ideally it would not conflict with the dates of the 2025 ABS Annual Meeting.

Future ABS Annual Meeting Planning:

2025 - Greenville, SC - hosted by the ABS.

2026 - (Options being discussed: Texas, Hawaii, Puerto Rico.)

2027 - (Need location.)

Future ABS Board Meetings: Will be continued online as needed throughout the year.

Approval of the 3 November Annual ABS General Meeting Agenda was by consensus.

Item continued until the Board reconvenes:

The election of officers of the ABS.

Recess: At 1600h, a **motion** (Boeraeve, second: King) to **recess** the meeting of the Board until 18 October 2024 at a time after the Annual General Meeting gained unanimous approval.

Board Meeting Reconvened
at Missouri Botanical Garden
18 October 2024
1700h

Election of Officers of the ABS: A quorum was deemed to be present. The following slate of officers was nominated and unanimously elected by the Board to serve until the conclusion of the ABS Annual Meeting in 2025:

President	Luc Boeraeve (International)
Vice President	Ian Connor (PNWC)
Secretary	David King (NCC)
Co-Treasurers	Bill Hollenback (PNWC) & Carole Meckes (TBSC)

Recognition of New Directors:

John Kohler – At-Large #2 Director for 2024-2027.

Other Business:

None.

Adjournment: A **motion** to adjourn the 2024 meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Bamboo Society **carried** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



David King
Secretary, American Bamboo Society
secretary@bamboo.org

ABS President's report for the year 2023 - 2024

The online regular board meetings of the American Bamboo Society keeps the society in good shape as well as the once a year in person board meeting prior to the AGM and annual conference. 5 board meetings via Zoom were held since last year's AGM (01/21, 03/10, 05/19, 07/07, 09/01). In addition there were Tech Committee meetings and a committee for organizing the annual conference without a chapter hosting it. Although such a conference, organized by the ABS Board, was planned for 2024, the Ned Jaquith Foundation and the Pacific North West chapter actually took charge of the 2024 ABS conference taking place at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis from 17 to 20 October.

As there is no chapter ready to organize the 2025 ABS Conference, the conference committee, reinforced by members of the South East Chapter (SEC) chapter is preparing next year's conference.

The regular Zoom meetings help to maintain close links between the chapters and the board and to ensure that any issue popping up can be dealt with in a timely matter. It is also helpful for the organization of the annual conference as the organizing chapter can draw on the experience and support from other chapters and from board members.

The administrative management of the society went smoothly in 2024. The website continued with a few changes although it is the intention to include more 'bamboo' information from the previous websites. An archive, accessible through the website bamboo.org, makes the ABS Journals from 1980 to 1991 available to the general public. It is planned to make all, old and new, bamboo magazines available on the website although issues from recent years would only be accessible for ABS members.

Bamboo, the ABS magazine, continues to be in full color and this is much appreciated by the members.

The previous edition of the Bamboo Species Source List N° 36 (2017- 2018) is being updated and should be ready for distribution next year.

Following previous years' successful competitions, the arts and crafts committee launched another competition in 2024 with the winners to be announced in Fall.

As in previous years, the Ned Jaquith Foundation is launching and managing the annual research grant scheme co-financed by the ABS. The winners of the current year will be announced in October 2024.

The World Bamboo Organization has revamped its website to make it more professional and to attract a wider audience. The Board decided to financially support the WBO and the ABS has now one page on the WBO website with the possibility to include one video on its page.

A good indicator of the health and attractiveness of the ABS is the increase in membership. The number of members has been going up during the last two years and reached 400 in September 2024.

The above is a short summary of what happened and was done this year but much more work has been and is being done by many, both members of the board as volunteers, such as overlooking the printing and distribution of the Bamboo magazine, editing the ABS Journal, Website content and

Luc Boeraeve
Krombeekseweg 44
8970 Poperinge
Belgium

maintenance, Source and Species List, Grants (with NJF), Help line, advertising, social media communication etc.

The strength of Bamboo permeates the ABS and thanks to all of you, ABS and board members, job holders and anyone growing or working with bamboo, the ABS is growing stronger.

Respectfully submitted. October 2024

Luc Boeraeve

ABS Financial Report thru 2024-10-01						
Expenses:	2023 Actuals	2024 Budget	2024 Actual Expense	2025 Budget	Net worth FYE as of 2024-10-01	
Administrative Expenses	\$773.84	\$800.00	\$937.55	\$1,000.00	Assets	
Advance to Host Chapter	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Capital One	\$0.00
Arts & Crafts Awards & Advertising	\$1,423.99	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	Chase Checking	\$19,536.81
Auction Expenses (2022 \$223)	\$77.03	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	PayPal	\$645.03
Credit card/bank/Paypal expenses	\$814.98	\$700.00	\$687.95	\$800.00	Brokerage Need year end total	\$101,374.00
Grants (Transfer to NJF)	\$5,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	Total Assets:	\$121,555.84
Annual Meeting Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,000.00		
Insurance (Director/Officer)	\$1,546.29	\$1,500.00	\$1,498.00	\$1,500.00	Liabilities	
Journal Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Chapter Dues Owed	\$1,275.00
Magazine Expenses 4 issues)	\$5,438.84	\$7,000.00	\$5,754.43	\$8,000.00	check outstanding	\$615.00
Social Media	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	Capital One credit card	\$31.70
Source List Expenses	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	Total Liabilities:	\$1,890.00
Taxes/fees	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$20.00		
Travel expense reimbursement	\$925.00	\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00	Current Net Worth:	\$119,665.84
Dues passed through to chapters	\$5,185.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,155.00	\$4,500.00		
Website	\$471.14	\$1,000.00	\$1,205.46	\$1,000.00		
Total Expenses:	\$23,156.11	\$29,020.00	\$14,238.39	\$46,520.00		
Income:	2023 Actuals	2024 Budget	2024 Income	2025 Budget		
All Memberships including chapter dues	\$12,830.00	\$15,000.00	\$14,200.00	\$16,000.00		
Auction income	\$3,489.00	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00		
Advertising /Commerical Membership	\$6,900.00	\$6,000.00	\$4,095.00	\$5,000.00		
Brokerage Income (Div, Int)	\$2,854.75	\$2,000.00	\$2,250.81	\$3,000.00		
Chapter Advance to LGCC Host AGM		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00		
Annual Meeting Income				\$18,000.00		
Sales: Magazine	\$100.00	\$0.00		\$0.00		
Sales: Species Source Lists	\$730.00	\$0.00		\$0.00		
Donations	\$106.85	\$650.00	\$160.21	\$250.00		
Royalties (Publications)	\$52.59		\$0.00	\$0.00		
Credit Card Rewards				\$50.00		
Misc. Income				\$0.00		
Total Income:	\$27,063.19	\$29,650.00	\$21,706.02	\$47,300.00		
Income minus Expenses:	\$3,907.08	\$630.00		\$780.00		

Secretary's Summary of Online Board Meetings held since the previous Annual Membership Meeting

Date of report: 17 Oct 2024

Summary of Online 2024 Board Activities in roughly chronological order:

1. Daphe Lewis stepped down as Southeast Chapter Director, and Lawton Rogers will complete her Board term.
2. A FAQ page on bamboo.org was started.
3. The ABS ended 2023 on a positive note with good financial footing.
4. An ABS Mission Statement was crafted:
The American Bamboo Society is dedicated to expanding the understanding, appreciation, and utilization of bamboo. Through research, advocacy, education, and community outreach, the Society promotes the benefits of bamboo as a renewable and sustainable resource in horticulture, agriculture, art and industry.
5. At-Large Director Jenni Li resigned and was replaced by Autumn Ramsay to fill out Jenni's term. Jenni was also the ABS Advertising Chair.
6. The 2025 ABS Annual Meeting and Conference is planned for Greenville, South Carolina in mid-October. The tentative theme is "In the Groves". John and Michelle Tkach have been doing groundwork. A basic outline includes a 3-day program with tours of bamboo groves near Greenville.
7. ABS will become a sponsor of the World Bamboo Organization at the \$1000 per year level.
8. ABS membership reached 400 by 1 Sep 2024.

Respectfully,
David King

2024 Bambooweb.info Website Report

October 13, 2024

I have been trying to keep up with the upgrades that the webhost software has gone through. We keep finding things that were broken so it helps if people would contact me when things don't work.

Thank you,
Bill Hollenback
bamboo@hollenback.com

2024 ABS Species Source List Report

October 12, 2024

I am sorry again that I have not been able to create the SSL this year. Personal life got in the way.

I have everything set up and it should only take 2 weeks when I can get a window.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Hollenback

LGCC Annual Report

The LGCC chapter held its annual Bamboo weekend on Avery Island during the last full weekend of February 2024. The meeting was held on February 23 at the Hampton Inn and suites in New Iberia Louisiana. Two new board members were elected to our board at that time. Kathleen Whitehurst and Deborah Namas are our newest board members and are welcomed with great enthusiasm. The meeting was well attended, and our Grove grooming was pleasing to both the groomers and the Grove owners.

The following May 2024, our newest Director, Kathleen Whitehurst, organized a Bamboo furniture building workshop featuring James Wolf in Arnold Ville Louisiana, just north of Lafayette. There were 10 attendees and the three day workshop was a great success. Kathleen wasted no time and beginning to plan a second workshop with James Wolf later in the year, his workshop was scheduled for October-November, but due to a scheduling conflict has been postponed until the spring time. The plan is to have a sculpture workshop with the participants creating a cypress stump sculpture. The canes to be used in the structure were harvested by some of the workshop participants in the yard of Judge and Elizabeth Edwards and preserved on site as instructed by James Wolf. This technique could be used by chapters around the country for the preservation of canes for future use in construction and artwork.

We are pleased that we have finally added a second event to our calendar year and look for looking forward to having 3 to 4 events a year in the near future. In addition, the board has agreed to help fund a bamboo studio in Arnoldville, across the street from a developing art center.

Respectfully submitted,
Judge Edwards
President, LGCC

PNW Rep Report, 2024

We always start the year in February with a booth at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show, in Seattle, WA.

James and I set up the booth with a twist this year in presenting bamboo to the masses.

The booth had lots of volunteers staffing the booth for five days, which was fantastic. Plus, we had a new handout out offering cultivation information and paid for by members of the chapter through their businesses. It is always well received.

Mid April, we hosted a booth for a much shorter, but targeted group of horticultural enthusiasts at the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon: Hortlandia.

In this one, we built a quickly assembled corner structure which was a lot of fun, but demonstrated how to use bamboo poles as garden structures.

Since then, instead of having a summer meet at a garden, or event at the Bamboo Garden, we focused our energies on the ABS Conference.

We will have our traditional board meeting in early winter before Christmas.

I am sad I cannot be with you all this year, but look forward to a zoom meeting (if possible), or am available for calls, especially regarding votes.

Ian Connor

Highlights from 2023/2024 — Prepared by Kay Koppedrayer, SEC Chapter President

Members of the Southeast Chapter were again busy with their bamboo work. Here are some highlights from 2023.

January 28: Open House at the Koppedrayer Bamboo Farm in Odum, GA. Sadly, no one came!

February 24: Savannah's Historic Bamboo Farm at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens on Candebroke Rd.

Daphne Lewis, Kay Koppedrayer, & Lynday Kleinknecht worked in the Vivax grove near the pavilion cutting & hauling out the dead culms. WE managed to clear up the front section of the grove.

February 26: Annual meeting of the Southeast Chapter via Zoom.

Nine members attended. April 1. April 1: Three Chapter members, Mike Hotchkiss, Walter E. Campbell and Kay Koppedrayer, convened a panel, "Bamboo in Georgia's Landscape: From Native Americans to the USDA," at the 2023 Georgia Archives Symposium. The presentations were well-received. Bamboo appears in many places in the Georgia landscape. You see it along roadways, in fields and yards. Some stands look to be feral; other plantings intentional. But for all its prevalence, there is little public understanding of bamboo's history in this state and its relationship to native versus invasive species. This panel will bring some of that history to light. The first presentation examines the diminishing presence of the native species of bamboo commonly known as rivercane. From there, attention turns to the late 19th- and early 20th-century efforts to introduce foreign species of bamboo to the American South. The third presentation takes up the implications of the USDA's project to make bamboo a viable cash crop.

June: Kay Koppedrayer's Cooking with Bamboo was published.

June 24: Daphne Lewis went to the Moso grove at the Silverbrook Cemetery in Anderson, SC, to spray herbicide to kill the wisteria choking the bamboo.

July 12: Kay Koppedrayer went to Savannah to check out the Madake grove at the Historic Bamboo Farm. The bamboo is not doing well. Will Savanich believes that environmental factors, including pollution from the adjoining highway is affecting the bamboo.

Oct. Boofest every weekend at the Holmes Bamboo Farm in Unadilla.

The brainchild of Ryane Holmes & Jess Brym. A fabulous use of a Moso grove. Nov. 3-5: The annual gathering of the American Bamboo Society in New Iberia, Avery Island, & Jefferson Island, LA, organized by members of the Louisiana & Gulf Coast Chapter. Good sessions on Friday, beautiful day on Avery Island, much bamboo building at the Rip Van Winkle Gardens on

Sunday. A good time was had by all. December 5: Kay Koppedrayer checked in with the staff at Savannah's Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens regarding the change in leadership there. For now, the site will continue as an event venue & botanical gardens. December 9: Magical Christmas Light walk at the Holmes Bamboo Farm in Unadilla, GA. Another event masterfully organized & coordinated by Ryane Holmes & Jess Brym. Well worth attending. Bamboo vendors welcome.

Highlights from 2024

Jan. 26: Semiannual Work Session at Savannah's Historic Bamboo Farm at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens, 2 Canebrake Rd. From 9am to noon.

Daphne Lewis & Kay Koppedrayer cleaned up the stand of *Phyllostachys viridiglaucescens* that is right at the entrance of the site.

Feb. 11: Dr. Mark Czarnota, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, forwarded to the Chapter the list & map of Bamboos at the USDA site in Bryon, Georgia.
Feb. 24-26: A couple of members of the SE Chapter participated in the Avery Island Moso Grove Grooming sponsored by the Louisiana-Gulf Coast Chapter.

March 1: Several members of the Chapter (Tracy Cato, Daphne Lewis, Jaap Koppedrayer, & Kay Koppedrayer) traveled to the UGA campus in Tifton, Georgia, to check out several large bamboo groves planted in circa 1967.

March 5: Annual Southeast Chapter Meeting, via Zoom.

April 8: Daphne Lewis & Kay Koppedrayer ran a workshop on growing & eating bamboo at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm in Savannah, as part of their Backyard Gardening Series.

May 20: David Benfield of Brightside Bamboo presented a class on bamboo basics at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

He had a great group of participants who asked good questions.

May 27th Lawton Rogers hosted a 'Biochar burn' party

Seven former neuro-divergent students came together and cut up (dried) bamboo and built a pit for a biochar burn.

June 10: Kay Koppedrayer was invited & joined the board of directors of the nonprofit group, Friends of the Coastal Gardens, that advocates on behalf of the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm in Savannah.

July 27: Donna Dodson and Andy Moerlein (The Myth Makers) had the opening event of their six large bamboo bird sculptures at the 33-acre Blithewold estate in Bristol, Rhode Island.

Sept. 14: Semiannual Work Session to take place at Savannah's Historic Bamboo Farm at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens, 2 Canebrake Rd. From 9am to noon.

Oct.: BooFest for the entire month at the Holmes Bamboo Farm in Unadilla, Georgia.

Nov. 2-5: 2023 American Bamboo Society Conference hosted by the Louisiana-Gulf Coast Chapter. Nov. 7: Annual Work Session to take place in the Moso grove at the Silverbrook Cemetery, Anderson SC. Chapter Gathering to follow at a local restaurant.

Nov. 21: Kay Koppedrayer will present a workshop on cooking with bamboo & using bamboo for decorations to the Odum Garden Club, Odum, Georgia.

Dec. 13-14, 20-21: Christmas in the Grove event at the Holmes Bamboo Farm in Unadilla, GA.

Ongoing:

Fielding questions on bamboo forwarded from the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm in Savannah.

Research into the disease(s) affecting various species of bamboo in the southeast, spearheaded by Daphne Lewis in consultation with Dr. Bishwo Adhikari, lead Plant Pathologist & Program Manager of the Poaceae Quarantine Program of the USDA.

Consultations on bamboo with Dr. Czarnota, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia. Work to ensure the survival of the Historic Bamboo Farm at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah.

Lawton is working with neuro-divergent, neuro-developmentally impaired people on bamboo building, cutting bamboo, tying knots and helping carry bamboo.

American Bamboo Society
International Director's report 2023-24
From: Luc Boeraeve
To be presented at the ABS Board Meeting
St Louis, MO, October 2024

- ✓ 2023- 2024 was my third year of my 4th 3 year term as International Representative and Director of the ABS.
- ✓ This was an extremely busy year during which I participated in many bamboo events and had a lot of contacts with bamboo people from all over the world.
- ✓ Maintained close contact with the German, Dutch, French, UK and Iberian bamboo societies and with, being the secretary and activity organizer, the Belgian Bamboo Society and its members.
- ✓ Attended the World Bamboo Conference (18 to 22 April) in Taiwan and participated in the post Conference tour (23 – 24 April 2024).
- ✓ Visited Damyang, South Korea, during the annual Bamboo Festival (11 May 2024).
- ✓ Participated in the first 2024 half yearly bamboo garden and nursery visit organised by AEB France (French bamboo organization). This 2 day event took place in the vicinity of Limoges during the weekend of 25 – 26 May 2024.
- ✓ Attended the annual general meeting of EBS-D, the German bamboo society, during the Sommerfest (Summer festival) in Mönchengladbach in the first weekend of June. The 'Sommerfest' included visits to a Castle garden, a tree fern nursery and a Sequoia farm.
- ✓ Attended the second European Bamboo Expo, held in Dortmund, Germany on 17 and 18 May, 2024. Commercial companies and NGO's presented their products and projects in this exposition combined with lectures during this 2 day event.
- ✓ Attended the 'Bouw met Bamboe' (Build with Bamboo) symposium in Rotterdam, The Netherlands on 20 and 21 June 2024. This was mostly about architecture and designing with bamboo and promotion of planting bamboo in Europe.
- ✓ The number of ABS International members remains stable although an increase would be very welcome. There are more and more local and regional bamboo events which makes it less interesting to become an ABS member. In addition there are International and regional organisations which are easier to follow and provide online information without a subscription (WBO; WBD, SABF, INBAR, ...).
- ✓ To attract more international participants to the ABS Conference, the website should indicate the possibility to request an invitation letter in order to facilitate obtaining a visa for the USA.
